

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO EDINBURGH, MARCH 7,
FROM LONDON REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 02708

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, US, UK

SUBJECT: NORTH SEA OIL: SECSTATE TRADE AND INDUSTRY
WALKER ON POSSIBLE BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN EXPLORATION
OFF EAST COAST OF U. S.

REF: (A) LONDON 2006, (B) STATE 33391, (C) STATE 21753

1. IN WIDE- RANGING DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS WITH
AMBASSADOR PETERSON ON FEBRUARY 24, SECSTATE FOR TRADE
AND INDUSTRY WALKER ALLUDED TO POLITICAL PRESSURES ON
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO EXTRACT THE MAXIMUM
BENEFIT FROM OIL AND GAS DISCOVERY IN THE NORTH SEA.
WALKER REFERRED TO THE LABOR PARTY PROPOSALS LOOKING
TOWARD NATIONALIZATION OF NORTH SEA OIL (REF A) AS AND
EXAMPLE OF THESE PRESSURES. WALKER NOTED THE PROMINENCE
OF U. S. COMPANIES IN NORTH SEA OPERATIONS, AND THEN
SUGGESTED THAT THE U. S. SHOULD RECALL THE POLITICAL
PROBLEMS IN THE U. K. BEFORE AWARDING LICENSES FOR
EXPLORATION OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE U. S. HE
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NOTED THAT MANY OF THE EXPLORATION COMPANIES AND SERVICE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE NORTH SEA WERE AMERICAN, AND SAID HE HOPED THAT THE U. S. WOULD LEAVE PART OF THE EAST COAST DRILLING TO OVERSEAS COMPANIES. HE SAID HE WAS ASKING, IN EFFECT, FOR RECIPROCITY FOR U. K. COMPANIES IN THE EAST COAST OPERATIONS NOTING AS HE DID SO THAT PROBABLY NOT MANY U. K. COMPANIES WOULD BE INVOLVED.

2. THIS WAS ONLY REFERENCE TO OPERATIONS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES IN NORTH SEA DURING FORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR PETERSON AND WALKER, AT WHICH ALL OF AMBASSADOR PETERSON' S DELEGATION WERE PRESENT, AND IN WHICH WALKER WAS BACKED UP BY MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY (BOARDMAN), MINISTER OF STATE, FCO (JULIAN AMERY), SECRETARY, TRADE, DTI (SIR MAX BROWN) AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ENERGY, DTI (F . R. P. VINTER).

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEF STATEMENT OF U. S. POLICY WITH REGARD TO AWARD OF LICENSES TO NON U. S. COMPANIES FOR OFFSHORE EXPLORATION WHICH WE MAY USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH DEMARCHE ON PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR NORTH SEA REQUESTED IN REFS B AND C. ANNENBERG UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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